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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	EUR-01
	OIGO-01	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01
	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	FMP-00	PMB-00
	PRM-10	DRL-09	G-00	/029W			

-----795F48 041045Z /38

P 041040Z OCT 94  
FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2025  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
USIA WASHDC 0332  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
USDAO LILONGWE MI  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
RWANDA COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KAMPALA 008149

USIA FOR AF LARSEN

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, MARR, MOPS, PREF, PINR, UG, RW  
SUBJECT: OPERATION SUPPORT HOPES DEPARTS ENTEBBE  
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1. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE -- SEE PARA. 8.
2. SUMMARY: THE JOINT TASK FORCE HAS COMPLETED ITS MISSION AND CEASED OPERATIONS AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT. OPERATION SUPPORT HOPE, WHICH AT ITS HEIGHT SAW MORE THAN 2,350 UNITED STATES SOLDIERS, AIRMEN, SAILORS AND MARINES ASSIGNED TO THE AREA, WAS A SUCCESS DUE IN PART TO THE WILLINGNESS OF THE GOU TO THROW OPEN ITS FACILITIES IN ENTEBBE TO THE HUMANITARIAN MISSION. END SUMMARY.

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3. IN THE SEVENTY DAYS FOLLOWING PRESIDENT CLINTON'S COMMITMENT OF THE US MILITARY TO OPERATION SUPPORT HOPE ON JULY 22, MORE THAN 1,200 AIRLIFT SORTIES DELIVERING ALMOST 15,000 TONS OF HUMANITARIAN AID COMMODITIES WERE FLOWN; A MAJOR PORTION OF THESE SORTIES (INCLUDING MORE THAN 550 CARGO FLIGHTS AND 5,000 METRIC TONS OF CRITICAL RELIEF SUPPLIES) TRANSITTED OR ORIGINATED IN ENTEBBE. AT ITS HEIGHT, THE OPERATION INVOLVED AS MANY AS 2350 TROOPS. THE LAST 478 PERSONNEL WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THE REGION THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 26, WITH THE LAST MISSION DEPARTING ENTEBBE FOR RHEIN MAIN AIR BASE ON 29 SEPT.

4. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME ENTEBBE AIRPORT HAS BEEN USED AS A STAGING AREA FOR RELIEF. THE PREVAILING UGANDAN POLITICAL AND SECURITY CLIMATE GREATLY FACILITATED THE OPERATION. THE GOV THREW OPEN THE AIRPORT, ALLOWING THE U.S. MILITARY FULL ACCESS TO ALL FACILITIES. CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WERE HELPFUL, GROUND SUPPORT ADEQUATE, AND LOCAL VENDORS OF GOODS AND SERVICES MORE THAN READY TO ASSIST.

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5. THE MILITARY COMMAND AT ENTEBBE FACED A MANAGERIAL AS WELL AS A LOGISTICAL CHALLENGE. THE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORT WAS HEADED BY UNHCR AND SUPPLEMENTED BY NUMEROUS PVOS AND NGOS, OCCASIONALLY WORKING AT CROSS PURPOSES. THE JTF, THROUGH ITS CIVIL-MILITARY OPERATIONS CENTER MANNED BY MILITARY AND AN OFDA DISASTER ASSISTANCE RELIEF TEAM (DART), SUCCESSFULLY PRIORITIZED RELIEF NEEDS AND MARRIED AIRLIFT REQUIREMENTS WITH AVAILABLE RESOURCES. THE UNHCR OFFICE AT ENTEBBE ALSO CLOSED SEPT. 30; UNHCR ACTIVITIES WILL NOW BE SUPERVISED FROM NAIROBI AND KIGALI. THE PIPELINE FOR ROAD TRANSPORT OF FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF COMMODITIES IS NOW WELL ESTABLISHED WITH FAR FEWER EMERGENCY SUPPLIES REQUIRING AIRLIFT.

6. THE TROOPS CONDUCTED THEMSELVES WELL. NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING U.S. TROOPS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES OCCURRED.

7. POST DISTRIBUTED TWO PRESS RELEASES AT THE CLOSE OF OPERATION SUPPORT HOPE, ONE A LETTER EXPRESSING THE U.S. MILITARY'S THANKS TO THE PEOPLE OF UGANDA FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY AND ASSISTANCE TO THE HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT MISSION, THE OTHER AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORIZATION TO CLOSE OPERATION SUPPORT HOPE WITH A SUMMARY OF ITS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

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8. ACTION REQUESTED - POST REQUESTS LETTERS OF APPRECIATION FROM APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS TO PRESIDENT MUSEVENI AND DEFENSE MINISTER AMAMA MBABAZI FOR THE ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION OF THE GOU THROUGHOUT THE OPERATION. POST SUGGESTS THAT THE LETTER TO MUSEVENI BE SIGNED BY PRESIDENT CLINTON, AND THE LETTER TO MBABAZI BE  
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SIGNED BY SECRETARY PERRY. SUGGESTED TEXT OF LETTERS IS  
AS FOLLOWS:  
BEGIN PROPOSED TEXT:

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION FOR THE SUPERB COOPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF UGANDA IN THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT TO ASSIST THE PEOPLE OF RWANDA. UGANDA'S HOSPITALITY AND SUPPORT FOR THE JOINT TASK FORCE AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT WERE CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE MISSION. WE CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE IN A TIME OF REGIONAL CRISIS. THE UNITED STATES IS PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COOPERATE WITH UGANDA AND OTHER NATIONS IN RESPONDING TO THIS TRAGEDY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU AND OTHER NATIONS TO FORESTALL SIMILAR CRISES IN THE FUTURE.

END PROPOSED TEXT.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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